(b) The cumulative trade deficit for April-December, 2008 has increased to US $ 93.8 billion from a level of US $ 88.6 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year. The international oil prices influences India's trade deficit significantly as POL constitutes a major component of both India's export and import baskets. As the uncertainty in oil prices still continues, it will be difficult to anticipate the level of trade deficit during the balance period of current year.

(c) Global slowdown has adversely effected India's traditional employment intensive exports like Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, Leather and Manufactures, Marine products, Carpets, Handicrafts, etc. On import side, the deceleration was mainly in export related commodities like Gold, Silver, Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious Stones.

Import from China

249. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imports from China have exceeded Rs.40,000 crores during 2008-09;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating making out a case of dumping and considering steps against dumping; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the statistics of DGCI and S the imports from China from April 2008 to August 2008 were of the volume of Rs 59 699 Crore.

(b) and (c) Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) initiates anti-dumping investigation on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping in the country, injury to domestic industry and causal link between the dumped goods and injury. Such petitions submitted by domestic industry are processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs tariff act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made there under. These laws are in consonance with WTO's agreement on implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (commonly known as the Agreement on Anti-Dumping). After investigation, the DGAD submits its Preliminary/Final findings to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance recommending, wherever appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied. Acting upon such recommendations of the DGAD, the Department of Revenue may impose the provisional or definitive duties, In 2008-09, DGAD has so far initiated fourteen (14) anti-dumping cases involving China PR. In two of these cases, preliminary findings have been issued.

Increase in patent applications

†250. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.